

Introduced by Senator Chesbro

April 24, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 115—Relative to “Year of the Community.”

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 115, as introduced, Chesbro. Year of the Community and Developmental Disabilities.

This measure would proclaim the year 2006 as “Year of the Community” and would encourage the support of California’s system of serving persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California’s first pilot regional centers for
2 delivering services to the developmentally disabled, the
3 Childrens Hospital at Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Aid for
4 Retarded Children, which opened in 1966, marked the beginning
5 of our state’s regional center system; and

6 WHEREAS, The success of these two pilot programs lead to
7 the introduction of Assembly Bill No. 225 in 1969, known as The
8 Lanterman Mental Retardation Services Act, which created a
9 statewide system of services for the developmentally disabled by
10 producing a dynamic network of community services, supports,
11 and nonprofit agencies that provided fixed points of access to the
12 resources necessary for maximized development; and

13 WHEREAS, The increased availability of services in the
14 community precipitated the state’s shift from nearly total reliance
15 on large state institutions to a regional service system in which
16 more than 98 percent of children and adults with developmental

1 disabilities receive all of their needed services and supports in the
2 community; and

3 WHEREAS, The regional center system was intended to
4 provide care and support to individuals with developmental
5 disabilities, and to work towards integration into the mainstream
6 of life in the community; and

7 WHEREAS, During the decades following the passage of the
8 Lanterman Act, the service system's evolution was enabled by
9 advances in knowledge and technology and by the increasing
10 recognition of the right of people with disabilities to choice and
11 full participation in society, including the rights of children to
12 live at home with their families; and

13 WHEREAS, While the 21 regional centers in California
14 continue to expand and diversify their services while serving
15 over 200,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their
16 families; and

17 WHEREAS, The 40th anniversary of the regional center
18 system is an appropriate time to reaffirm our commitment to the
19 Lanterman Act, and renew our investment in the community
20 system; now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
22 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
23 year of 2006 as the "Year of the Community," and encourages
24 the people of the State of California to support California's
25 system of serving persons with developmental disabilities and
26 their families; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O